UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/788,769	02/27/2004	Mayumi Takeda	KOT-0090	8475

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2164	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/788,769	TAKEDA, MAYUMI
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Rezwanul Mahmood	2164	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>11 April 2007</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,5-7,10,11 and 13-19* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1,5-7,10,11 and 13-19* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some *   c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this

application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action

has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on

04/02/2007 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3.   Claims 1, 5-7, 10, 11 and 13-19 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being

anticipated by Huang (US Publication 2004/0098379).

4.   With respect to claim 1, Huang discloses a directory searching method of

searching a plurality of directory structures in a storage medium for a prescribed

directory structure, wherein the plurality of directory structures constitutes a hierarchical

structure and the prescribed directory structure includes at least two directory of a

directory having a first name and a directory having a second name (Huang: Paragraph 16, lines 1-18; Paragraph 17, lines 1-9; Paragraph 28, lines 1-8; Figure 8; Here a user can search for multiple directories in one search by providing multiple names, the directories being in a hierarchical structure), the directory searching method comprising:

inputting the first name and the second name with an inputting device (Huang: Paragraph 28, lines 1-8; Figure 8; Here the user can select two names and search directories related to those names);

searching the plurality of directory structures based on the first name and the second name so as to extract all the prescribed directory structure comprising the directory having the first name and the directory having the second name in the storage medium (Huang: Paragraph 28, lines 1-8; Figure 8; Figure 9; Here after the search all the prescribed directory structure are extracted); and

displaying at least part of the prescribed directory structure extracted in the searching step (Huang: Figure 8; Figure 9);

wherein the directory having the second name is in the same hierarchy level as the hierarchy level on the directory having the first name (Huang: Paragraph 28, lines 1-8; Figure 8; Figure 9; Here multiple directory can be at the same hierarchy level).

5.   With respect to claim 5, Huang discloses the directory searching method of claim 1, further comprising:

selecting a part of the prescribed directory structure extracted in the searching step (Huang: Figure 9; Here a searched directory can be selected for further action).

6.   With respect to claim 6, Huang discloses the directory searching method of claim

1, wherein the at least two directories store a set data containing at least one of image

data, sound data and sound image data (Huang: Paragraph 16, lines 1-7; Figure 5;

Figure 8).

7.   With respect to claim 7, Huang discloses a directory searching apparatus for

searching a plurality of directory structures in a storage medium for a prescribed

directory, wherein the plurality of directory structures constitutes a hierarchical structure

and the prescribed directory structure includes at least two directories of a directory

having a first name and a directory having a second name (Huang: Paragraph 16, lines

1-18; Paragraph 17, lines 1-9; Paragraph 28, lines 1-8; Figure 8; Here a user can

search for multiple directories in one search by providing multiple names, the directories

being in a hierarchical structure), the directory searching apparatus comprising:

        an inputting device to input the first name and the second name (Huang:

Paragraph 28, lines 1-8; Figure 8; Here the user can select two names and search

directories related to those names);

        a searching device for searching the plurality of directory structures based on the

first name and the second name so as to extract all the prescribed directory structure

comprising the directory having the first name and the directory having the second

name in the storage medium (Huang: Paragraph 28, lines 1-8; Figure 8; Figure 9; Here

after the search all the prescribed directory structure are extracted);

displaying device to display at least a part of the prescribed directory structure

extracted by the searching device (Huang: Figure 8; Figure 9);

wherein the directory having the second name is in the same hierarchy level as

the hierarchy level of the directory having the first name (Huang: Paragraph 28, lines 1-

8; Figure 8; Figure 9; Here multiple directory can be at the same hierarchy level).

8.   With respect to claim 10, Huang discloses the directory searching apparatus of

claim 7, further comprising: a range specification device to specify a search range

(Huang: Paragraph 28, lines 1-8; Figure 8).

9.   With respect to claim 11, Huang discloses the directory searching apparatus of

claim 10, wherein the search range is the top and bottom level in the directory structure

(Huang: Paragraph 28, lines 1-8; Figure 8).

10.   With respect to claim 13, Huang discloses the directory searching apparatus of

claim 7, further comprising of:

a selecting device to select a part of the prescribed directory structure extracted

by the searching device (Huang: Paragraph 28, lines 1-8; Figure 8).

11.   With respect to claim 14, Huang discloses the directory searching apparatus of

claim 7, wherein the at least two directories store a set data containing at least one of

image data, sound data and sound image data (Huang: Paragraph 16, lines 1-7; Figure

5; Figure 8).

12.   With respect to claim 15, Huang discloses a directory searching program

comprising step of controlling a computer to function as a directory searching method o

claim 1 (Huang: Paragraph 16, lines 1-18; Figure 8).

13.   With respect to claim 16, Huang discloses a directory searching program

comprising a controlling section to control a computer to function as a directory

searching apparatus of claim 7 (Huang: Paragraph 16, lines 1-18; Figure 8).

14.   With respect to claim 17, Huang discloses a storage medium comprising data

corresponding to the directory searching program of claim 15 (Huang: Paragraph 16,

lines 1-18; Figure 8).

15.   With respect to claim 18, Huang discloses a storage medium comprising data

corresponding to the directory searching program of claim 16 (Huang: Paragraph 16,

lines 1-18; Figure 8).

16.   With respect to claim 19, Huang discloses a directory searching method of

searching a plurality of directory structures in a storage medium for a prescribed

directory structure, wherein the plurality of directory structures constitutes a hierarchical

structure and the prescribed directory structure includes at least two directories of a

directory having a first name and a directory having a second name (Huang: Paragraph 16, lines 1-18; Paragraph 17, lines 1-9; Paragraph 28, lines 1-8; Figure 8; Here a user can search for multiple directories in one search by providing multiple names, the directories being in a hierarchical structure), the directory searching method comprising:

inputting the first name and the second name with a inputting device (Huang: Paragraph 28, lines 1-8; Figure 8; Here the user can select two names and search directories related to those names);

searching the plurality of directory structures based on the first name and the second name so as to extract all the prescribed directory structure comprising the directory having the first name and the directory having the second name in the storage medium (Huang: Paragraph 28, lines 1-8; Figure 8; Figure 9; Here after the search all the prescribed directory structure are extracted); and

displaying at least part of the prescribed directory structure extracted in the searching step (Huang: Figure 8; Figure 9);

wherein the directory having the second name is in the hierarchy level below the hierarchy level of the directory having the first name (Huang: Paragraph 28, lines 1-8; Figure 8; Figure 9; Here multiple directory can be at different hierarchy level).

Conclusion

17.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The Shi reference (US Patent 6,625,615) teaches about data processing system and method for multi-level directory searches. The Sedlar reference

(US Patent 6,427,123) teaches about hierarchical indexing for accessing hierarchically

organized information in a relational system. The Brechner reference (US Publication

2004/0215643) teaches about organizing and searching media contents.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Rezwanul Mahmood whose telephone number is

(571)272-5625. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F 10 A.M. - 5 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on (571)272-4085. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Rezwanul Mahmood
Examiner
Art Unit 2164

June 10, 2007